

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02387 181629Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 181502Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6230

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

S E C R E T CAIRO 2387

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN UNGA EGEN CB

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF GKR DELEGATION TO EGYPT

REF: PHNOM PENH 5380

1. WE HAVE HAD FEW OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS CAMBODIAN DEVELOPMENTS WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS. WE WOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT GOE RECOGNIZES PRINCE SIHANOUK'S GOVERNMENT AND THAT LATTER MAINTAINS A FULL FLEDGED, THOUGH NOT VERY ACTIVE EMBASSY HERE (COMPLETE WITH RESIDENT AMBASSADOR) UNDER THE DESIGNATION "KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA." ONE SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL WITH WHOM THE SUBJECT OF CREDENTIALS FOR VARIOUS UN BODIES WAS RECENTLY DISCUSSED COMMENTED IN PASSING THAT, IN HIS VIEW, SIHANOUK AND THE FORCES SUPPORTING HIM WILL ULTIMATELY PREVAIL AFTER WHICH SIHANOUK HIMSELF WILL BE GOTTEN RID OF. IN SHORT, THERE APPEARS TO BE AN ATTITUDE OF DISINTERESTED FATALISM ABOUT CAMBODIAN DEVELOPMENTS IN GOE CIRCLES. WE HAVE IMPRESSION EGYPTIANS WANT TO STAY AT ARMS LENGTH FROM CONFLICT.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GOE WOULD AT THIS TIME BE RESPONSIVE TO OVERTURES TO CHANGE ITS POSITION VIS-A-VIS SIHANOUK'S REGIME. IN A SOMEWHAT ANALOGOUS INSTANCE, IT HAS RECENTLY SHOWN ACUTE SENSITIVITY TO ANY SUGGESTION OF DIRECT CONTACTS WITH GVN, EVEN ON A MATTER OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO GOE. GIVEN CURRENT SOVIET

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ATTACKS ON SOME OF SADAT'S POLICIES, IT IS NOT, RPT NOT,

LIKELY THAT GOE WILL WANT TO ADD FUEL TO SOVIET ATTACKS BY APPEARING TO BE FLIRTING WITH GKR. IT WOULD ALSO BE SENSITIVE TO DOMESTIC AND OTHER ARAB CRITICISM. GKR WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO RECKON WITH CAMBODIAN EMBASSY HERE DOING EVERYTHING TO THWART ANY DIALOGUE WITH GOE. PRC EMBASSY HERE WOULD PROBABLY DO THE SAME.

3. IN OUR JUDGMENT, GOE MIGHT CONCUR IN PROPOSED VISIT OF A CHAM DELEGATION ON UNDERSTANDING IT WOULD LIMIT ITS EFFORTS TO DISCUSSING COMMON MUSLIM INTERESTS. INDONESIANS AND MALAYSIANS ARE NOT PARTICULARLY INFLUENTIAL HERE. NEVERTHELESS, IF THEY FELT DISPOSED TO DO SO, THEY MIGHT USEFULLY SUPPORT GKR REQUEST THAT SUCH A MUSLIM DELEGATION BE RECEIVED. GKR WILL BE WELL ADVISED TO DIRECT ITS INQUIRY TO SOME PROMINENT EGYPTIAN ISLAMIC FIGURE, SUCH AS THE GRAND SHEIKH OF AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY, RATHER THAN FORMALLY TO THE GOE. IN LAST RESORT LATTER WILL STILL HAVE TO CLEAR VISIT, BUT IT MIGHT FIND IT EASIER IF VISIT CAST IN PURELY ISLAMIC CONTEXT. IF SAUDIS COULD BE PERSUADED SAY WORD TO THE EGYPTIANS ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF RECEIVING DELEGATION, THIS MIGHT ALSO HELP. WE WOULD RATE PROSPECTS OF PROPOSED CHAM MUSLIM DELEGATION PERSUADING GOE TO RECEIVE A GKR "POLITICAL DELEGATION" SOMETIME PRIOR TO 29TH UNGA AS POOR.

4. WE COULD SAY A WORD TO GOE TO URGE THAT IT RECEIVE GKR MUSLIM DELEGATION, BUT MUST RECKON WITH THE FACT THAT OUR INFLUENCE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE COMPELLING IN THIS MATTER. REGRET TO APPEAR NEGATIVE, BUT ABOVE REFLECTS FACTS OF SITUATION HERE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO02387
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740090-0884
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740434/aaaabdzm.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: PHNOM PENH 5380
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED VISIT OF GKR DELEGATION TO EGYPT
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, CB, UN, UNGA, (SIHANOUK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005